

*Hobart Chamber of
Commerce*

Celebrating  Years & Beyond

HOBART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1948 - 1998

St. Mary Medical Center
Salutes The
Hobart Chamber of Commerce
On  Years Of
Serving The
Hobart Community.



St. Mary Medical Center
1500 S. Lake Park Avenue • Hobart
(219) 942-0551
“On The Leading Edge”

HOBART CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

50TH ANNIVERSARY

INSTALLATION BANQUET

EVENING AT A GLANCE

Welcome Art Erdelac

Invocation

Dinner

Presentation: Hobart Chamber of Commerce
50 Years And Beyond

Installation of Officers Mayor Linda M. Buzinec

Remarks Mark Furukawa, Hobart Branch Library
(Outgoing President)

Remarks Susan Capps, Miller's Merry Manor
(Incoming President)

BANQUET COMMITTEE

Chairman	Art Erdelac	Erdelac Insurance, Inc.
Committee	Marlena Lagina	St. Mary Medical Center
	Hazel Thomas	Century 21, Thomas & Immel
	Todd Hinson	Strack & VanTil
	Ed Kray	Kray & Associates
	Rick Cioni	Bank One, Indiana, N.A.
	Virginia Curtis	City Improvement Committee
	John Sakes	Hobart Furniture
	Susan Gergely	Charter Behavioral Health System
Staff	Virginia Rettig	Executive Director
	Diane Bruner	Secretary
	Roberta Schwuchow	Secretary

OUR EARLY DAYS

In 1948, the year following Hobart's centennial celebration, a group of business leaders decided to continue their successful cooperative efforts.

Thus the Hobart Business Association, which became the Chamber of Commerce, was founded.

Now, the year following Hobart's sesquicentennial celebration, we observe our 50th anniversary.

While The Hobart Business Association marks the beginning of the Hobart Chamber of Commerce, as we know it, there were prior organizations with similar motives which didn't survive long. Although each of those groups did accomplish some goals, we still pursue others.

We don't know much about the first such Hobart organization, The Commercial Club (organized in 1890).

However, information on others is preserved in the archives of the Hobart Historical Society Museum.

"Throughout Hobart history, its citizens, individually and in groups, have provided leadership needed for progress," states Elin Christianson, Historical Society president. "Hobart's business community, in particular, has always rallied to the cause of a better community."

The second business group, The Hobart Commercial Association, founded in 1901, quickly succeeded in bringing a new industry to Hobart.

Quaker Canning Co. located facilities on the Main Street site now occupied by Hobart Lumber Servi-Star.

The company processed tomatoes and currants for juice and jelly, but lasted only two years before moving out of town in 1903.

In 1912, the Hobart Improvement and Commercial Club organized. It proved to be the longest lasting of the early business associations.

One of its first projects was to work to improve Lake George. At that time, the water level fluctuated throughout the year. Low levels meant a muddy, smelly swamp.

After studying the issue, The Commercial Club lobbied for a higher dam and maintenance of water levels. Their efforts culminated in the city's purchase of the dam and water rights in 1923. A higher dam was later constructed by Boyd Construction who won the city contract.

That group also established a campground on the east end of town on Highway 130. At its peak, it hosted over 2,000 visitors each summer. With few motels, motorists traveling through the area camped out overnight.

When old town bands of the turn of the century broke up, it was the Commercial Club which organized and sponsored a band to provide music for parades and other special events from 1914 to the early 1920's.

In 1933, 25 business leaders met at city hall to form the Hobart Retailers Association.

A board of directors was elected with William Bonath president. Committees were appointed and plans for a greater and better Hobart were formulated.

Road signs to point the way to Hobart had been made, painted and were to be installed that same week by the Lions Club.

A committee was named to make arrangements to connect a new cement road (running from Valparaiso to U.S. 6) a half-mile east to Lillian Street.

With just three blocks of cement needed, the group felt this would be worthwhile, diverting traffic through Hobart. They hoped to get permission to use Hobart's share of state gas tax for that purpose.

The group voted to have two separate organizations with one to co-operate with the state to influence and control state legislation (dues were \$1). The other was wholly local with the object of "making Hobart a still better trading point for the home people and the surrounding farming territory."

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President

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Founder

David P. Heuring II (JR.)
Vice-President

PAUL HEURING FORD

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THE 1950'S

There were many changes during the 1950's with the Chamber taking a stand and leadership role in many items.

With the abandonment of the old bathhouse at Main and Front Streets, the Chamber was able, in 1955, to obtain the building at \$1 a year, moving into its first office.

With that move, President Paul Heuring and his sons assumed the job of clean-up and painting of the site which housed the chamber until 1967.

The 50's saw much growth with several subdivisions approved and completed. Construction was \$2 million in 1950; \$1.3 million, 1951; and \$1.1 million, 1952.

During this decade, the Chamber continued the Christmas celebrations, (Santa arrived by helicopter, sleigh, fire truck and plane), big July 4th activities and parade, held an ox roast in a pit on the Chamber grounds, backed fluoridation of city water (approved in 1954) and waged a successful campaign to have West Hobart mail delivered from the Hobart Post Office rather than from Gary. This resulted in all Hobart residents receiving mail from the local post office.

Some may recall a burro marching with the band and serving as a mascot during 1950's football games. That was won by the band kids during an auction held at the ox roast. The band continued its winning performances in state competition.

Discussions continued on downtown parking, building a YMCA, lake clean up, a swimming pool, attracting light industry and a department store, and installing Welcome To Hobart signs.

A fund, to study the possibility of a Hobart Hospital, was created by the Chamber of Commerce with \$20,000 raised while Paul Heuring was president.

Operation Pull Together, was organized by Chamber President Robert Sanz in 1959. Civic and business representatives, city and school officials and interested citizens met regularly to set priorities to improve Hobart. Topping their list were a YMCA, lake clean up, parking and beautifying the downtown.

Mayor Herman Pflughoeft appointed a bipartisan committee to study the lake clean up. However, voters vetoed the proposal on a referendum.

Chamber members traveled to Indianapolis and to Angola attending meetings and urging a change in the shoreline and clean up of the lake.

Ray Dickson prepared a plan in 1956 for beautification of the lakefront in the downtown area.

The Hobart Industrial Foundation was an off-shoot of the Chamber. They worked to obtain land for industrial development, hoping to add to the tax base. Their remaining funds were turned over to HIEDC in the 1980's to further their objective.

Strommel Dry Goods store, rich in historical lore, closed in 1959 after 60 years in the downtown. This cleared the way for drive-in facilities at Hobart Federal Savings and Loan.

Other businesses (such as the Earlwin Furniture Mfg. Co. at 4th and Indiana; Harvey's Dime Store, Third St. and Schultz Bros., Main St.) flourished during the 1950's, however.

Herman Pflughoeft constructed a \$30,000 mortuary at 7th and Main Sts. in 1959 and sold the old chapel at 611 E. Third St.; BuyLow Supermarket, 37th Ave.; Mr. Chip's Drive In, Lake Park and Old Ridge Road; a new medical center, Third and Wisconsin Streets and others including several downtown gas stations.

In 1955, Gary National Bank moved to a new building at Main and Front Streets. A large public meeting room was included in the basement.

One of the city's oldest buildings was demolished in 1950 to make room for a modern business block. W.B. Mitchell removed the building formerly occupied by Tommy's Bar to construct five stores on the property in the 600 block of Third Street.

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General Contractors & Engineers
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TOGETHER"**



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"Celebrating 50 Years & Beyond"**

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FAMILIES SINCE 1908**

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Hobart, IN 46342
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Merrillville, IN 46410
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FIFTY OR MORE YEAR BUSINESSES

The following Hobart businesses were each in business when the Hobart Chamber of Commerce got its start in 1948.

Some always have operated under the same name while others have changed names. Still others originated in another city, but moved to Hobart, continuing their business. Where possible the date of origin and prior names are shown.

O'Dell-Smith Jewelers (O'Dell Jewelry) - 1886

Hobart Gazette - 1889

Corey Brothers Bakery (Louis Jelen Bakery) - 1906

Peddicord Law Office - 1907

Plumbers Local Union 433 - 1907

Burns Funeral Home (Pflughoeft Funeral Home) - 1908

NBD Bank (Gary State Bank) - 1908

Elks Lodge - 1909

Indiana Botanic Gardens - 1910

Boyd Construction - 1911

Moose Lodge #783 - 1911

Krull and Sons (Walter Black, Engineer) - 1912

Hobart Lumber - 1912

American Legion Post 54 - 1919

Unity Shoe Repair - 1921

Indian Ridge Country Club - 1923

Harrigan Real Estate (Harrigan - Prihoda) - 1926

Smith Insurance Agency (John I. Smith Insurance) - 1926

Mauer Meats (Supreme Meats) - 1926

Cressmoor Country Club - 1927

Rees Funeral Home - 1927

Isakson Motors - 1928

Kellen's Florist - 1928

Monroe Pest Control Co. - 1929

Mellon's Tax Service (Mellon's Real Estate / Insurance) - 1929

HFS Bank (Hobart Federal Savings and Loan) - 1934

Hobart Lanes - 1936

Simmons Decorating (Simmons & Sons) - 1936

Karp's Garden and Feed (Hobart Hatchery) - 1937

Mundell County Line Greenhouses (Mundell Flower Shop) - 1940

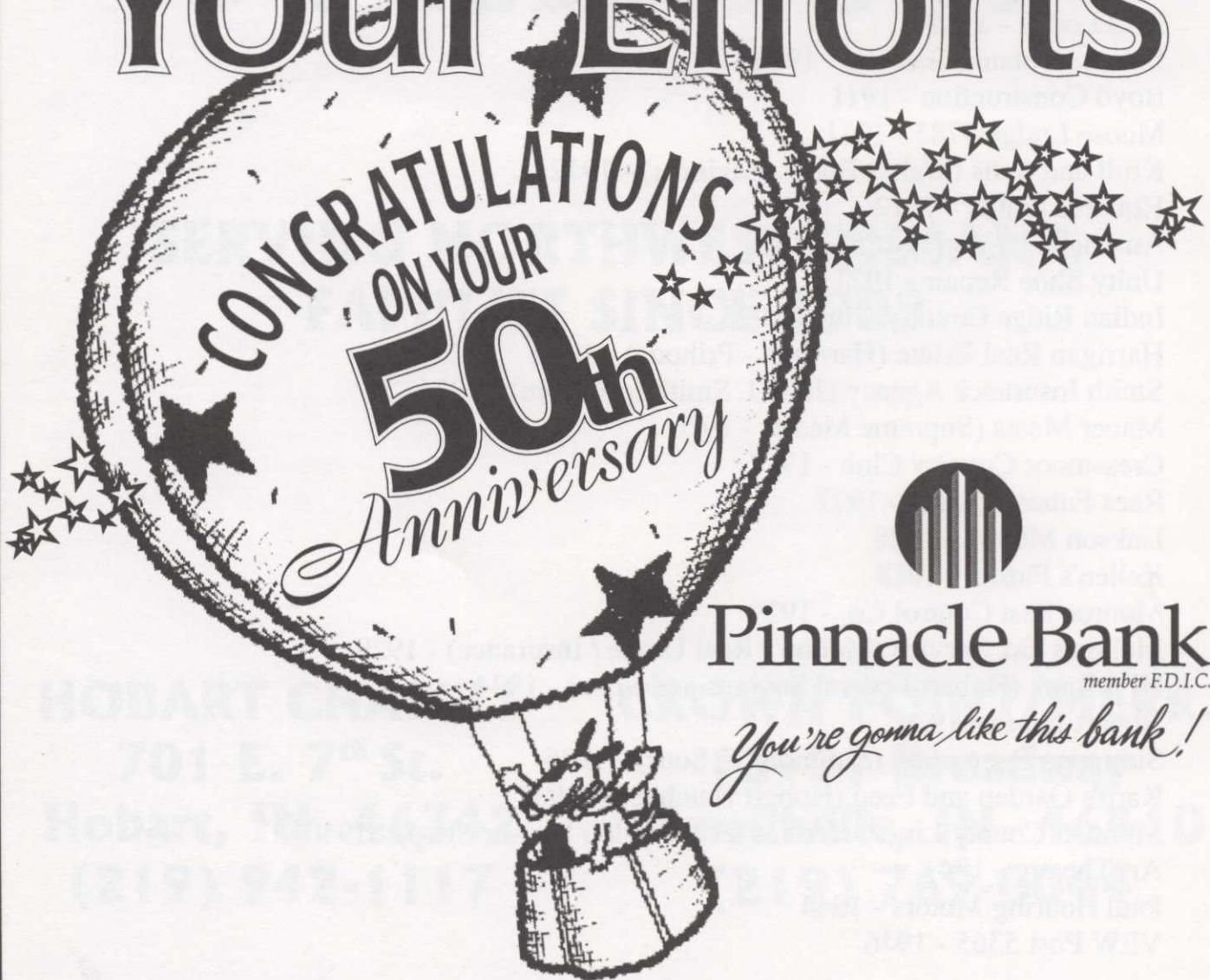
Art Theatre - 1941

Paul Heuring Motors - 1944

VFW Post 5365 - 1946

Know any others? Please advise the Chamber office.

Proudly Supporting Your Efforts



Pinnacle Bank
member F.D.I.C.

You're gonna like this bank!

Hobart Chamber Officials - THEN and NOW

Organized in 1948, the Hobart Business Association first met weekly in the rear of the Gary National Bank at 301 Main Street. Meetings were then moved to Sharbach's Restaurant, 321 Main Street. The association was formalized and papers filed with the Secretary of State on January 24, 1951, with Jack Fulton as the resident agent.

ORIGINAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Robert Sanz	George Long	Paul Heuring
Don Robinson	Ray Craig	Leon Gardner
Marie Kellen	Helen Wall	Ethel Robinson

That same group reorganized as the Hobart Chamber of Commerce with William Jensen as its agent preparing articles of incorporation which were filed on July 30, 1952.

FIRST CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Richard Harkin	Don Robinson	William Wheaton
Wilbur Nicholas	Paul Heuring	George Long
Warren McAfee	Ted Ferkinhoff	Charles Neier
John Campbell	Jay Sternall	Joseph Gutnicht

Under President Richard Langbein, the board was increased to 21 members with six vice-presidents in 1967.

1998 CHAMBER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Susan Capps	Miller's Merry Manor
President Elect	Susan Gergely	Charter Behavioral Health Systems
Treasurer	Richard Cioni	Bank One, Indiana, N.A.
Vice Presidents	Art Erdelac	Erdelac Insurance, Inc.
	Bettie Grosser	NBD Bank, N.A.
	Jack Leach	School City of Hobart
	John Sakes	Hobart Furniture
	Mark Furukawa	Hobart Branch Library
 Ex-Officio		
Executive Director		
Board of Directors		
Term 1998	Kathy Fugate	Wal-Mart
	Terry Joy	Terry's Cleaners
	James Burns	Burns Funeral Home/Crematory
	Sandra Attar	Sears Roebuck & Co.
	Robert Collins	Fred Collins Architects
	Gail Pollnow	Ginter Realty
 Term 1999	Mark Haller	Hobart Lumber ServiStar
	Marlena Lagina	St. Mary Medical Center
	Virginia Curtis	City Improvement Committee
	Steve Bohn	HFS Bank, F.S.B.
	Barbara Null	Pinnacle Bank
	Karen Nagy	HFS Bank, F.S.B.
 Term 2000	Ed Kray	Kray and Associates
	Nick Didonna	NIPSCO
	Sonia Watkins	TravelSource
	Dave Thomas	Epperson's Furniture
	Bill Lowry	IN Carpenters Federal Credit Union
	Hazel Thomas	Century 21, Thomas & Immel



First Hobart Chamber of Commerce office in the old bathhouse, circa 1950's.



Hobart Chamber of Commerce

Honorary Lifetime Members

Bernice Nelson
J. Paul Heuring
Don Robinson
Theodore Ferkinoff
Richard Black
Virginia Curtis
Richard Kobza
Deborah Longer
Laura Bracken

THE 1960'S

Although the 60's may be best remembered for the sewer moratorium imposed by state and federal agencies, there was actually much growth and development during the decade.

There was a new city hall, fire station, city barns, city parking lot, a school administration office complex, an industrial area, new funeral home, costume shop, chain drug store, a new library, historical museum and bank.

Two new lakes were created and Interstate 65 was constructed along the western city limits.

A few businesses, including Ridge Road Gardens, the Oak Ridge Roller Rink and several homes were replaced by I-65.

Chamber members were responsible for the parking lot and played a part in the new city barns.

The Hobart Parking Corp., and off-shoot of the Chamber, purchased the Beerbower property on Center Street for \$22,500 in 1960. That site, and the adjoining Krull property were presented to the city for use as a free public parking lot in 1960. Employees were to park in the lot, leaving street parking spaces for customers.

Lake County State Bank also announced at that time the Killigrew property on Main Street would be converted to a free public parking lot.

Chamber members, incorporated as the Hobart Industrial Foundation, established the Industrial Park (On Indiana 130). A Site for the city barns was exchanged for construction of Shelby Street by the City, thus opening that area for development.

Chamber President Richard Langbehn organized Forward Thrust in 1967, involving government and school officials, citizens and civic organizations. They worked to identify and solve problems and needs of the city to attract industry, business, shoppers and new residents.

Annexation was endorsed by the Chamber when the city annexed three areas. At that time, annexation changed school boundaries as well as the city.

In 1964, the southeast and northeast corners were squared off along County Line Road (this included land later designated as an industrial park on Indiana 130)

The next year, the southwest corner was annexed roughly between Wisconsin and Mississippi Streets from the middle of Lake George to 61st Avenue.

Hoosier State Bank won approval for a branch office on Hobart Road at 37th Avenue. Costumes by Elizabeth and Scot Drugs also opened.

In 1960, Gerald Rees left Rees-Brown Appliances on Third Street to open a new funeral home on Ridge Road. Dale Carlson became the new partner of Robert Brown and the store moved to larger quarters.

Richard Black headed the Chamber's 1964 HCBD (Hobart Commercial and Business Development) Committee. City lots were designated where no bulding permits should be issued, clearing the way to extend streets. That map was adopted by the Plan Commission.

Dr. Phillip Kellar expanded his professional building on Old Ridge Road, installing Hobart's first elevator for humans. The first in Hobart was installed to move vehicles in the building at Third and Center Streets.

There were several other businesses opening during the decade throughout the city.

Chamber representatives called on and presented a potted plant to each new business owner.

When the sewer moratorium was imposed this decade, the city planned a new sewer plant on East Sixth Street. However, state and federal mandates continued to change for two decades before the city was finally directed to connect to Gary City sewer lines in 1987.

Chamber discussions were on additional parking, eliminating lake silt build up, downtown store front improvements, traffic re-routing and attracting industry.

The gigantic 1966 July 4th celebration ended with a \$2,500 deficit due to a contract with Herb Shriner.

That cloud did hold a silver lining since the first of nine Autumn Leaves Balls was held, successfully covering the debt and providing a vehicle for the social event of the year.

That same year, the chamber held the first Miss Hobart Pageant chaired by Sylvia Danhauser and Bernice Nelson.

The Chamber and its downtown retail division held many promotions and the Old Timers Street Sale, bringing numerous shoppers to the downtown during the 1960's.

The Tourism Committee helped develop Robinson Park, printed 15,000 brochures and installed five Welcome to Hobart areas with signs, picnic tables and landscaping. Members also placed litter baskets throughout the city.

The Chamber urged two new locations for fire stations - 10th and Lake Park and near Cleveland Ave. and IN 51. The 10th Street station became a reality in 1974.

Businesses were surveyed to determine what the Chamber could do to assist members and learn who may be planning to expand or add employees.

Hobart Chamber Of Commerce

PRESIDENTS

1948 - 49	Don Robinson*	1975	Dean Eickstead*
1950	R.E. Wheaton*	1976	Henry Dykstra
1951	Warren McAfee*	1977 - 78	Harold Heuring
1952	Joseph Gutknecht*	1979 - 80	Jeffrey Langbehn
1953	Louis K. Lindsey*	1981 - 82	Robert Lee
1954	Ted Ferkinoff*	1983 - 84	Thomas Laskey
1955	J. Paul Heuring*	1985	Nancy Norris
1956	Ray Dickson*	1986	William Longer
1957	Roy Christenson*	1987	James Greiner
1958	William Hebert	1988	Polly Hunt
1959	Robert Sanz*	1989	James Burns
1960	W.H. Thomas	1990	Ed Kray
1961	A.F. Harrigan	1991	Gary Brubaker
1962 - 63	Richard Black*	1992	Patricia Rees
1964	Bud Pavese*	1993	Thomas Hallet
1965	Robert Mahoney*	1994	Elizabeth Grosser
1966	Charles Smith	1995	Karen Nagy
1967	Richard Langbehn	1996	Ron Mitchell
1968	Don Hickman	1997	Mark Furukawa
1969	O. Ray Partlow*	1998	Susan Capps
1970	Keith Reinert		
1971	Edward Prentiss*		
1972	Lester Voyles		
1973	Edward Bowles, Jr.		
1974	Marshall Hannigan		

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES/DIRECTORS

BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Calvin Green, Jr. George Long Richard Black

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Walter Berg	Jack McMahon	Ted Ferkinhoff
James Dees	Ed Prentiss	Patricia Rees
Virginia Rettig		

*Deceased

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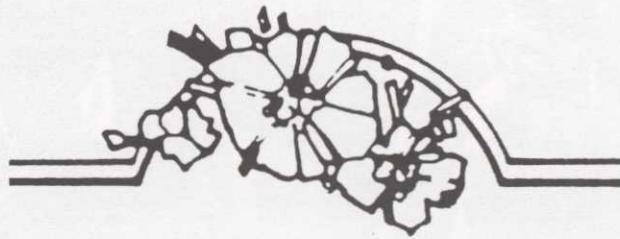
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FOR 50 YEARS

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and
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ON YOUR
50TH ANNIVERSARY**

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Chamber Presidents During The 25th Anniversary Banquet

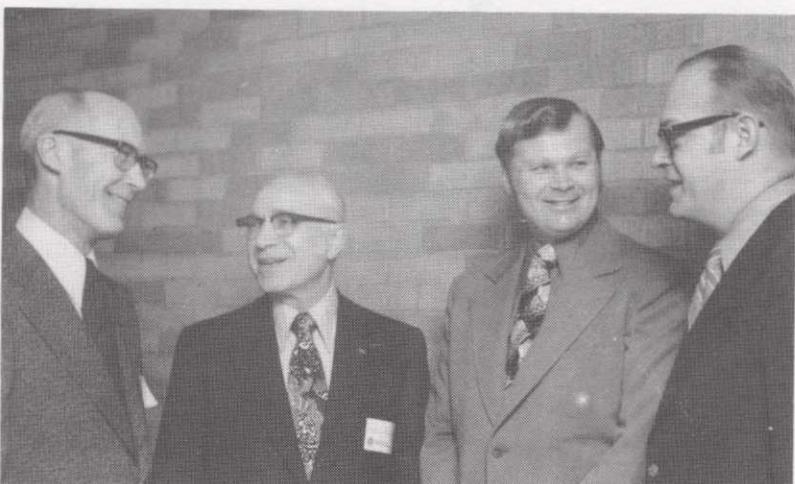


A.F. Harrigan
1961

W.H. Thomas
1960

Don Robinson
1948 - 49

R.E. Wheaton
1950



Richard Black
1962-3

J. Paul Heuring
1955

Les Voyles, Jr.
1972

Ed Bowles, Jr.
1973



O. Ray Partlow
1969

Keith Reinert
1970

William Hebert
1958

Robert Mahoney
1965



JOINS



CONGRATULATIONS



THE 1970'S

Once again the Chamber of Commerce met and worked with city, state and national officials throughout the 1970's. Members voiced concerns and supported clean up of Lake George, downtown parking, new sidewalks, a botanical garden, expanding sanitary sewers, annexation and beautifying the downtown storefronts as well as bringing in business, industry and new members.

Major projects included street sales, Autumn Leaves Balls, spring dances, Yukon Fest activities, clean up projects and distributing a Chamber brochure and information to inquiring businesses as well as the public.

A major improvement was accomplished with the 1971 move into the Chamber's first headquarters owned by the organization.

This was accomplished by a loan from the Hobart Industrial Foundation for purchase of the building, and a \$1 a year rental of the grounds from the city at 18 E. Ridge Road.

Chamber officials traveled with city officials to Indianapolis seeking state approval to fill in and change the shoreline of Lake George. They proposed filling a portion between Third and Fourth Streets to provide additional parking along Alley One while eliminating the stagnant water area and resulting odor and rodents.

Grass, benches and lighting, installed between the dam and Third Street, improved the area.

A chamber donation of \$1,000 helped the city pay study and legal costs to annex 15 square miles south of the city. That would have doubled the size of the city and included a proposed shopping mall on U.S. 30. That annexation was later withdrawn by City Attorney James Moody and Mayor Lilburn Titus at the direction of the city council. Residents opposed that annexation, threatening legal action.

Following a Chamber study, chaired by Henry Dykstra, the Chamber had urged the City Council to annex south into Ross Township, and north to East Gary. While the northern area residents continued to petition the city to annex them, councilmen took no action on that area until the 1980's.

Mayor Calvin Green arranged for a county owned mud cat to remove silt from the lake north of Third Street to the dam.

A building moratorium remained in effect throughout the decade. Still, some progress was made in attracting and expanding business. After decades of Chamber financial and moral support for a Hobart hospital, St. Mary Medical Center opened in 1973.

A new Midwest facility for a Pennsylvania firm, Universal Welding, Inc., was constructed on Frank Garcher's Industrial Site on IN 130. Garcher's Midwest Products also expanded its manufacturing space, adding to the number of model kits offered in its nation-wide distribution.

In 1979, The Caring Place, Inc., for battered women, opened in the building at Second and Center Streets which formerly housed St. Bridget School nuns.

Prudential Insurance Co. relocated several departments from the Chicago loop to a new 30,000 sq. ft. Hobart building at 10th Street and Lake park Avenue in 1972.

Because of the success of those departments, Prudential moved additional departments to Hobart two years later when a 50,000 sq. ft. addition was completed on the 10th Street site.

On September 22, 1972, Chamber officials attended the Prudential grand opening, joining Prudential officials, Mayor Lilburn Titus, A.F. Pete Harrigan (the realtor responsible for bringing the firm to Hobart) and Hobart-born Mrs. Oscar Ritz (wife of the Indiana Insurance Commissioner) and many of the employees staffing the facility. Most of the 100 plus employees were from this area.

Store front facelifting and remodeling took place in many downtown businesses after much discussion spearheaded by the Chamber and city officials.

Changes were made at Walgreen's, Kellen's Florist, Lew Judd's TV, Vossberg's Men's Store and Main Drugs (these two switched Main Street locations in 1976), Authentic Costumes, Epperson's Furniture, Denny's Radio and TV (old Trinity Lutheran School), Kittredge's House of Fabrics.

A loss was felt in 1970 when barber Jasper (Hoppy) Hopkins announced his retirement and Leon Gardner announced the closing of Hobart's last soda fountain.

Councilman Easterling Allen observed that old time Hoppy customers such as he would have gladly paid \$5 a month just to have a place to loaf and exchange gossip.

Long a gathering place for Hobart residents, especially the downtown employees, the Walgreen soda fountain also had been a place of employment for many students since 1940.

Some of the many new businesses, and Chamber members, during this decade included Frank and Cathy Pastor's Mortar Joyst (formerly Scotty's), Justine Gaydos and Jane Nault's Create-A-Craft, Louis Gerodemos and Tom Fragos Paragon Family Restaurant, Paul Gerhart and Roy Mattox's Real Estate Office, Betty Stratton and Kaye Johnston's The Trunk, Harold Rippe's RIP's Drive-In, Jim and Fritz Ruchti's Ruchti Brothers Paint (an addition to their decorating and interior cleaning business), Arthur Knight's Knight's Coin Co. (relocated from Gary), Gene and Joyce Lahaie's Pleasure Tours, All State Insurance, Mary Adams' Antiques and Collectors Shop, Jack Lahaie's Airways Rent-A-Car, Wayco Foods, Shop-n-Save Food Store (in the old A&P building on Third Street), Jim Kraft's Hobart Glass, and most of the 1,000 apartments approved for Hobart.

Plumbers Local Union 433 purchased the American Laundry property, moving their business offices to the site from Gary where their headquarters had been since 1907.

The union's April, 1970 acquisition from the Henry Kranz estate also included the old Villa Shores Realty office (which was then occupied by the Hobart Chamber of Commerce) and the former Kranz Lumber warehouse off Ridge Road west of Lake Park Avenue.

Hobartite Joe Conn, returning in 1979 after four years in Peace Corps, even created an eight acre rice paddy and attempted to raise wild rice. His \$100 investment in seed and gasoline to get the seed from the University of Minnesota plus the cost of two pumps (one was stolen) didn't actually get off the ground. He had fun planning to utilize methods learned in the peace Corp. and enjoyed the challenge.



New stop lights installed at 3rd and Center Street, 1983.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO
THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
FOR
50 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

TO
THE COMMUNITY OF HOBART

AND
WISHING YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS IN THE NEXT 50 YEARS!

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THE 1980'S

While the building moratorium wasn't lifted until 1990, Hobart continued to welcome new business and industry.

Even with the moratorium, development could continue where sewers were already in use.

Mayor Calvin Green was backed by the Chamber when he combined grants of \$300,000 from the Indiana Department of Labor and \$123,000 from Housing and Urban Development to extend sanitary and storm sewers, water lines and road repairs to bring Westinghouse Electric to the Industrial Park.

Following the \$3.5 million plant construction in 1985, Westinghouse added a second building in 1986.

Other new businesses during the decade included Charter Hospital (1987), Katies Potato Chips manufacturing plant, SaveMore Plaza (1983), Family Express (1988), Jim Dandy's 50's Restaurant (1989), First Federal Savings & Loan (1989).

Also Eagles Supermarket replaced a 37th Ave. Shop-Rite Supermarket (1981), Ribordy Drugs (1982), Red Brick Inn (1984), Buck's Schwinn Cyclery (1984) and many others.

During 1980, Hobart Lanes computerized the scoring, Fran and Elinor Greener purchased the 43 acre property where Wayne Pavel had raised Arabian horses since 1963. Wayne Newton was a customer for the prize horses.

Loans utilizing, but not jeopardizing, the city's assessed valuation were approved through the Hobart Economic Development Commission and the City Council. Those benefiting and promising to bring new jobs to Hobart were Holiday Storage, Don's Uptown Liquors and Miller's Merry Manor.

Unwelcome news early in the decade was received. Mayor Calvin Green announced the defeat of a federal bill which would have funded Lake George clean-up.

Representative Adam Benjamin, D-Hobart, had won approval for the funds from both houses. An unrelated amendment tacked on the final bill killed chances of success.

Among those benefiting from tax abatement was Airtek which had its area at the northwest corner of 37th Avenue and I-65 annexed into the city during the administration of Mayor Margaret Kuchta.

Another annexation was northeast of 37th Avenue and Indiana 51, including Nob Hill subdivision and the business corridor along the north side of 37th Avenue from County Line Road to a point east of Lake Park Avenue.

This annexation in 1987 became final in January 1988. Two other areas, one north of Nob Hill (Spencer area) and the other is east of Lake Park Avenue at 37th Avenue (Topper area).

After much competitive presentations to the City Council, US Cable won the city's cable franchise in 1983. They also provided a studio and equipment for use by Hobart citizens. It was installed in the middle school and is used by students. Cable cost was \$8 a month per household.

Chamber committees established under the Chamber's first woman president, Nancy Norris, included the City Improvement Committee and the Industrial and Economic Development Committee.

CIC, chaired by Virginia Curtis, constructed the Revelli Bandshell. Using the theme "76 Trombones", funds were raised with \$100 donors recognized with a trombone on a plaque located on a large boulder.

The bandshell became a 1986-87 community wide project, honoring Hobart Schools' first band director, Dr. William Revelli.

It was constructed on Lake George near the Community Center by volunteers. The city obtained the Community Center building and grounds in a trade with the Izaak Walton League for one of the I-65 lakes.

As a separate organization, CIC now holds free weekly concerts at Revelli Bandshell through the summer.

The Chamber Industrial and Economic Development Committee was chaired by Ed Bowles. Regular meetings were held with Chamber, school and city officials, as well as the public to pool resources in bringing industry and business to Hobart.

The group worked with Ball State professors in defining the type of desirable industry to attract to Hobart.

That committee eventually became HIEDC, a separate organization which continued to work with the Chamber. Patty Rees was retained as executive director of the Chamber and HIEDC in 1986-87. They jointly produced new city maps, brochures, worked with the city and park department on the Lou Kuchta memorial covered bridge and the Hoosier '88 Fountain.

HIEDC developed Festival Park around the Revelli Bandshell and improved the lakeshore in that area.

YESTERDAY.....TODAY.....TOMORROW

CONGRATULATIONS
50 YEARS OF SERVICE



Formed in 1956

3592 N. Hobart Rd.
Hobart, IN 46342
(219) 962-7676
1-800-276-7676



Formed in 1985 as
the convenience store
operating entity of
the company, One Stop
Food Marts now operates
Stores throughout
Indiana, Illinois, and
Michigan.



Formed in 1986

Luke Oil Company was founded in an entrepreneurial spirit
that is reflected in its diversification and growth today.

Congratulations

to the Hobart Chamber of Commerce on

50 Years of Success.

As mayor of Hobart, I am proud that the efforts of the Chamber are being recognized. The Chamber's events, cooperation and participation are so important to our community and spirit.



*Mayor Linda Buzinec
City of Hobart*

Best Wishes for Continued Success

THE 1990'S

With one of two Ross Township annexations finally approved by the courts, Hobart was flexing its muscles and ready to face the 1990's.

Hobart's annexations north of 37th Avenue all are being challenged by Lake Station although those residents continue their desire to be in Hobart. This involves three areas.

The second Ross Township annexation (east of Ind. 51) also remains in litigation, except for those areas annexed by developers for Barrington Ridge and Deep River Pointe Subdivisions.

The city's first federal obligation bonds were issued in 1995 for \$1.8 million, providing funds for a fire station, city park and fire, police and street workers and equipment in the annexed areas.

A temporary fire station was opened near U.S. 30 to service the new area.

Mary Jane and Gerald Rees donated land for Veterans Park now being developed in the annexed area on 73rd Avenue at Grand Boulevard.

HIEDC completed development of Festival Park. They joined forces with the city in developing plans for the area from the dam to Third Street. City and state officials and the public attended dedication of the lakefront, fountain and fishing pier in 1997 as part of the sesquicentennial activities.

Downtown parking meters were removed by Mayor Robert Malizzo who worked with HIEDC in developing the lakeshore and downtown area plans.

The Chamber supported a 1996 park bond for \$3.8 million, issued during the administration of Mayor Linda Buzinec. This made it possible to install a seawall, save grants obtained by HIEDC, develop the lakefront, obtain and improve Brookview treatment plant and provide the city's share to clean Lake George.

Even though the U.S. Corps of Engineers spent \$1.3 million in federal funds for study and plans of lake clean up between 1990-96, construction funds were vetoed in 1997.

Those construction funds, guided through both houses by Rep. Peter Visclosky, again will be pursued as this decade continues. Meantime, the city plans to begin lake clean up with removed silt to be stored on an East Sixth St. site.

Ambulance headquarters on Wisconsin Street (station 3) were closed.

A permanent third fire station (station 4) opened in October 1996. Mayor Buzinec reports a fourth (station 3) will begin this spring on 37th Ave. west of IN 51. This completes the earlier proposal by Fire Chief Richard Harrigan, solidly supported by the Chamber through the decades.

St. Mary Medical Center is donating a new ambulance and financial assistance toward the building for that site.

The Chamber activities in 1997 centered around the 150th anniversary (sesquicentennial) of the city. Among the first projects of the year were special T-shirts, sweatshirts and hats with the celebration logo and theme, "Fanfare for 150 years", available from the Chamber.

CIC offered sesquicentennial license plates, bike plates, wooden nickels and post cards.

Special coffee mugs and pins were available through the Historical Society and the American Legion Auxiliary offered special veteran's pins.

With annexation of Southlake Mall, the U.S. 30 business corridor, and the commitment of Virginia Rettig, Chamber Executive Director for the past 10 years, membership in the Chamber increased from 121 in the 1980's to 425 as we celebrate our 50th anniversary.

Mayor Buzinec also had special sesquicentennial books, prepared by Marion Dudley, printed and distributed during the year.

As the 1990's come to an end, the Chamber will continue working with city officials to move our city forward.

We are one of the few fortunate small cities still having a viable downtown. We are very unique in also having a lake in the downtown area.

The Chamber will continue working to unify and serve the business community throughout our city. Support will continue for a new state taxing system to benefit business and home owners.

Also the downtown will remain as a prime area for our attention. In 1998, the Chamber will return the July Old Timers Street Sale. A modern Street Faire complete with crafters and venders joining our local merchant will provide a unique day of fun and bargains for citizens and visitors to our city.

CONGRATULATIONS
TO THE
Chamber of Commerce
on **50** years
of service to the
City of Hobart

AREA SHEET METAL

409 SHELBY ST.
HOBART, IN

942-7700

Heating, Air Conditioning
& Ventilation



Hobart Chamber of Commerce

Mission Statement

The mission of the Hobart Chamber of Commerce is to promote business and industry in the community. It is not the purpose of the chamber to regulate or endorse any specific kind of business.

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce is vitally interested in the orderly growth and prosperity of the community. The chamber actively promotes various programs with this purpose in mind. The City of Hobart is ideally suited by its geography and possessing a highly skilled citizenry to attract quality land developers and good corporate neighbors.

The chamber recognizes that for a community to prosper and continue to be a good place to live that it must meet the needs of its citizens. A stable local economy ensures its citizens of full employment and financial security. Good municipal services as well as fine utilities assure the health and welfare of our community. To be a fully rounded-out community, we also require quality service businesses.

The Hobart Chamber of Commerce stands ready to counsel, encourage, and support any commercial or industrial venture that will contribute to making Hobart a better place in which to live.

PATRONS

**The following businesses and individuals congratulate the
Hobart Chamber of Commerce for 50 Years of Service to
the City of Hobart and its Business Community.**

AFCO of Hobart, Inc.
Air Temp Mechanical, Inc.
American Family Insurance - Ken West Agency
American Legion Post 54
Brickie Photo - Portrait Studio
Bright Spot Restaurant
Caldwell / Hobart Subways
Cefalli & Cefalli, Attorneys at Law - Hobart
Century 21, Thomas & Immel
City Improvement Committee
Elinor's, Inc.
Epperson's Furniture
Erdelac Insurance, Inc.
Euvino, Steve
Harrigan Real Estate
Hidden Lake, L.L.C.
Hobart Family YMCA
Hobart Furniture / Hoosier Movers
Hobart Industrial Economic Development Corp.
Hobart Lumber ServiStar
Hobart Township Trustee Barbara S. Rosser
Karp's Garden & Feed Center
Kray, Ed & Joan
Miller's Merry Manor
Monroe Pest Control Co., Inc.
NBD Bank, N.A.
Nino's Total Hair Care Salon
Northwest Indiana Forum
O'Dell-Smith Jewelers
Paul's Place
Prusiecki, Edward & Juanita
Rees Funeral Homes
Rettig, Virginia D.
Rosie O'Grady's Lounge
Smith Insurance Agency
The Hobart Times
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5365
WiseWay Food Centers
Wolek, Julie & Leon



*Congratulations to
the Hobart Chamber of Commerce,
serving our community for
50 years!*

**Charter Behavioral Health System
of Northwest Indiana**

*providing psychiatric and addiction treatment
for children, adolescents and adults*

1-800-CHARTER

*HFS Salutes the
Hobart
Chamber of Commerce
for
50 Years
of Service*



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